

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 COA-02 COME-00 RSR-01

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P R 141715 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3601

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2410

E. O. GDS

TAGS PFOR SG UR

SUBJ: SENGHOR POSTPONES MOSCOW VISIT

REF: DAKAR 2100

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TER- GAZARIANTS TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD CONVOKED HIM YESTERDAY TO INFORM HIM THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO THE USSR, THE THIRD STOP OF A EUROPEAN TRIP WHICH IS TO COMMENCE IN TWO DAYS. (SEE REFTEL). THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE SENGHOR HAD USED THE " EXCUSE" THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS WOULD DOUBTLESS BE SO BUSY WITH WORK FLOWING OUT OF BREZNEV- NIXON MEETING, THAT HE DID NOT WISH PLACE ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON MOSCOW BY HIS PRESENCE AT THIS TIME. TER- GAZARIANTS ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS PRIVATE OPINION, SENGHOR FELT UP- STAGED BY USSR- US TALKS AND FEARED HIS VISITWOULD RECEIVE LITTLE ATTENTION. AS FAR AS AMBASSADOR KNEW, SENGHOR IS ONLY " POSTPONING", NOT " CANCELLING".

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2. AMBASSADOR PRECEDED HIS INFORMATION ON TRIP CHANGE WITH SEVERAL CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT SENGHOR AND QUESTIONS INVOLVING SENEGALESE- USSR RELATIONS. HE SAID, FOR INSTANCE, HE DID NOT KNOW WHY SENEGAL HAD NOT ASKED HIS GOVERNMENT FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE, WHEN THEY KNEW RUSSIAN GRAIN WAS IN PORT OF DAKAR WAITING TO BE TRANSSHIPPED TO MALI. HE COMPLAINED THAT EVEN THOUGH SENEGALESE HAD REQUESTED AND BEEN GIVEN TWO FISHING BOATS, GOS WOULD NOT LET SOVIETS FISH WITHIN SENEGALESE LIMITS. THIS DESPITE FACT THAT RUSSIANS HAD ALSO OFFERED TO SHARE PORTIONS OF CATCHES TO HELP EASE CURRENT FOOD SHORTAGES, WHAT BOTHERS HIM MORE, TER- GAZARIANTS CHARGED, IS THAT SENGHOR AND SENEGAL KEEP SHIFTING POSITIONS ON MANY ISSUES. HE SAID THAT SENGHOR FLUCTUATES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, FROM WEST TO USSR TO PRC, FROM PRO- SOVIET AT TIMES TO ANTI- SOVIET, IN MOST UNPREDICTABLE MANNER.

3. SHORTLY AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET, AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TARTER CALLED TO INFORM ME THAT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL LEYE HAD JUST TOLD HIM THAT SENGHOR WAS DROPPING MOSCOW FROM HIS TRIP. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT WOULD DEPART THIS WEEKEND AND VISIT AUSTRIA AND FINLAND AS SCHEDULED. LEYE HAD GIVEN TARTER SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO SENGHOR' S CHANGE OF PLANS. PROTOCOL ASSERTED PRESIDENT HAD LEARNED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED BY BREZNEV DURING VISIT, WITH SOVIETS GIVING EXCUSE THAT BREZNEV " NOT WELL" (SIC). THEREFORE SENGHOR CHOSE NOT TO GO TO MOSCOW UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD IMPRESSION FOR SOME TIME SOVIETS NOT TOO HAPPY WITH SENEGALESE AND SOME OF SENGHOR' S POSITIONS AND POLICIES. HE FURTHER BELIEVES SENEGALESE, LIKE SOME OTHER AFRICANS, FEEL SOVIETS RATE THEM FAIRLY LOW ON TOTEM POLL. TARTER THINKS THAT SENGHOR' S CHANGE IS A " CANCELLATION", NOT " POSTPONEMENT".

4. COMMENT: SENGHOR ADMITTED TO US SOME TIME AGO THAT WHILE HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VARIOUS UPCOMING VISITS, AND POSSIBLE TRIP TO CHINA IN FUTURE, ONE PROSPECT HE DID NOT RELISH WAS RUSSIAN TOUR. THOUGHT
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OCCURS TO ME, THAT SENGHOR' S CHANGE OF PLANS, AMBASSADOR TER- GAZARIANTS' VOCAL FRUSTRATION AND CERTAIN DEGREE OF DETERIORATION IN GOS- USSR RELATIONS MAY ACTUALLY BE RESULT OF PRC INFLUENCE AND PRESSURES ON SENEGAL, DIRECTLY AND / OR THROUGH SOME ARAB STATES. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT PUBLIC EXPLANATION PRESIDENT' S OFFICE WILL PUT OUT TO EXPLAIN CHANGE IN

SENGHOR ITINERARY.
CLARK

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